

## Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 LISBON 06219 101850Z

12  
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00

NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 SAM-01 SAJ-01

/061 W

----- 061940

R 101659Z SEP 76  
FM AMEMBASSY LISBON  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8491  
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN  
AMEMBASSY LONDON  
AMEMBASSY MADRID  
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW  
AMCONSUL OPORTO  
AMEMBASSY PARIS  
AMCONSUL PONTA DELGADA  
USMISSION NATO  
DIA WASHDC  
USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER

C O N F I D E N T I A L LISBON 6219

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: PINT, PO  
SUBJ: POLITICAL PROSPECTS: TWO VIEWS FROM THE TOP

REF: LISBON A-246, SEPT 10, 1976

SUMMARY: REVOLUTIONARY COUNCIL MEMBER ALMEIDA E COSTA AND  
DEFENSE MINISTER FIRMINO MIGUEL SHARE A PESSIMISTIC VIEW OF  
PROSPECTS FOR SUCCESS OF THE SOCIALIST GOVERNMENT. THEY  
ARE NOT ALONE IN THEIR CRITICISM OF THE SLOWNESS OF THE  
SOCIALISTS TO TAKE CONCRETE STEPS TO GET THE COUNTRY MOVING.  
HOWEVER, SOARES'S SEPT 9 SPEECH MAY LIFT SOME THE GLOOM.  
END SUMMARY.

1. IN SEPERATE CONVERSATIONS SEPT 8 AND 9, REVOLUTIONARY  
COUNCIL MEMBER CDR ALMEIDA COSTA AND DEFENSE MINISTER LTC  
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 LISBON 06219 101850Z

FIRMINO MIGUEL GAVE ME A SOMBER VIEW OF PROSPECTS FOR

SUCCESS OF THE SOCIALIST GOVERNMENT. BOTH VIEW THE GOVERNMENT AS INTERNALLY DIVIDED AND UNWILLING OR UNABLE SO FAR TO TAKE THE TOUGH MEASURES REQUIRED TO GET THE COUNTRY MOVING. BOTH SAID EANES WAS PRESSURING SOARES TO BECOME TOUGHER.

-- ALMEIDA COSTA DOUBTED THAT THE SOCIALISTS WOULD BE ABLE TO PULL THINGS TOGETHER. A SUCCESSFUL COALITION GOVERNMENT MIGHT BE POSSIBLE IF IT WERE FORMED SOON. A CONTINUATION OF THE CURRENT DRIFT, HOWEVER, COULD MAKE EVEN THAT SOLUTION UNVIALE. THE REAL ANSWER, ALMEIDA COSTA THOUGHT, WOULD BE FOR THE PRESIDENT TO NOMINATE A GOVERNMENT OF HIGHLY-QUALIFIED INDEPENDENTS WHO HAD HIS CONFIDENCE. THE POLITICAL PARTIES WOULD HAVE TO AGREE TO A TRUCE IN THE INTERESTS OF NATIONAL UNITY. IF THEY REFUSED TO COOPERATE THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY MIGHT HAVE TO BE PROROGUED.

-- MIGUEL EXPRESSED A SIMILAR BUT NOT QUITE AS PESSIMISTIC A VIEW. HE SAID HE HAD ADVISED PRESIDENT EANES NOT TO GET TOO CLOSE TO THE SOCIALISTS. MIGUEL VIEWED THE PS AS A COLLECTION OF FACTIONS RATHER THAN AN HOMOGENOUS PARTY. HE THOUGHT A COALITION WAS INEVITABLE. HE EXPRESSED PERSONAL ADMIRATION FOR SOARES, AS DID ALMEIDA E COSTA.

2. EANES DOMINATES RC: BOTH ALMEIDA COSTA AND MIGUEL BELIEVE EANES IS NOW IN A COMMANDING POSITION WITHIN THE REVOLUTIONARY COUNCIL (RC). BOTH HAVE COMMON DISDAIN FOR THE RC. THEY SEE IT AS AN UNREPRESENTATIVE ANOMALY OF LITTLE UTILITY IN EITHER POLITICAL OR MILITARY TERMS. EVENTUALLY IT MUST BE MADE TO FADE AWAY.

3. COMMENT: PESSIMISTIC VIEWS, PERHAPS OVERLY SO. THERE IS AN UNCOMFORTABLE ELEMENT OF SELF-FULFILLING PROPHECY IN THE REMARKS OF BOTH. NEITHER IS HAPPY WITH THE MANNER IN WHICH HIS RELATIONSHIP WITH THE GOVERNMENT HAS EVOLVED. ALMEIDA COSTA'S INTEREST IN REMAINING IN THE GOVERNMENT WAS REBUFFED WHEN SOARES DECIDED TO EXCLUDE ALL RC MEMBERS. MIGUEL SEES HIMSELF AS AN INTERMEDIARY BETWEEN CIVILIAN AND MILITARY POLITICAL FORCES; HE HAS BEEN DISAPPOINTED IN THE AUTHORITY HE HAD BEEN GIVEN AS DEFENSE MINISTER. BUT BOTH ALMEIDA COSTA AND MIGUEL ARE SERIOUS, HIGHLY-RESPECTED FIGURES. THEIR VIEWS MUST BE HEEDDED. THEY ARE NOT ALONE IN THEIR CRITICISM OF THE SLOWNESS OF THE SOCIALISTS TO ACT.

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 LISBON 06219 101850Z

SOARES'S SEPT 9 SPEECH OUTLINING HIS RECOVERY PROGRAM MAY HELP TO LIFT SOME THE GLOOM.

CARLUCCI

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** PERSONAL OPINION, POLITICAL STABILITY, SOCIALISM, POLITICAL SITUATION, FORM OF GOVERNMENT  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 10 SEP 1976  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** BoyleJA  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1976LISBON06219  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** DG ALTERED PER 77 LISBON 7514  
**Executive Order:** X3  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Film Number:** D760343-0536  
**From:** LISBON  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Image Path:**  
**ISecure:** 1  
**Legacy Key:** link1976/newtext/t19760974/aaaackqy.tel  
**Line Count:** 110  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM  
**Office:** ACTION EUR  
**Original Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 3  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** 76 LISBON A-246  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** BoyleJA  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 21 APR 2004  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <21 APR 2004 by CollinP0>; APPROVED <16 AUG 2004 by BoyleJA>  
**Review Markings:**

Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
04 MAY 2006

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** POLITICAL PROSPECTS: TWO VIEWS FROM THE TOP  
**TAGS:** PINT, PO, (ALMEIDA E COSTA), (MIGUEL, FIRMINO)  
**To:** STATE BONN  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006